REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 7-9 and 15-17 have been canceled, without prejudice. Claims 4-6, 14 and 18 have been amended. The limitations of claims 1-3 have been incorporated into claim 4, and additional limitations have been added to claim 4. The application as amended contains claims 4-6, 14 and 18. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the original claims and other claims in this and other applications.

Claims 4-6, 14 and 18 (all pending claims) are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Machida. Reconsideration is respectfully requested. The claims have been amended to obviate the rejection.

Independent claim 4, as amended, relates to a method for installing a plurality of items of software in a computer 1-1 (Fig. 1), and simultaneously performing initial print setup. The plural software items may include, for example, a device driver, an application, a port monitor, etc. (page 2, lines 19-22, page 12, lines 3-18, page 12, line 25 – page 13, line 2, page 15, line 22 – page 16, line 6; Fig. 2, Step S4). The software installation facilitates use of printing devices 3-1, 3-2 connected to the computer 1-1 through a network N1, N2.

The method shown in Fig. 3 involves a scenario 16, a template 11, and parameters. The scenario 16 is a file that describes procedures for installing the software (page 13, lines 3-4). The template 11 may be produced by the network administrator 12 (page 15, lines 1-4). The parameters are part of the template 11. The parameters represent incomplete information within the template 11. The template shown in Fig. 4, for example, is incomplete with respect to setting items specific to the computer 1-1, including the name of a printer driver, the initialization file to be used, etc. The incomplete information is represented by the parameters, designated by "@" symbol pairs in Fig. 4. Thus, the template 11 includes (A) common setting items and (B) parameters for setting items that are specific or peculiar to each computer (page 23, lines 10-22).

In operation, a scenario producing part 14 (Fig. 3) reads the template 11 (Fig. 8, Step S22) to determine whether the template 11 contains a parameter representing incomplete information (Step S23). For the information to be completed ("YES" from Step S23), the computer 1-1 proceeds with a search of an installation database 15 (Fig. 3) to find data, such as print setting information, corresponding to the parameter (Step S24). The database 15 may be located outside the computer 1-1, and the search may be conducted based on a "key" parameter, which may be the computer itself (host name) or a user of the computer (Figs. 9 and 10, respectively). (An example of the latter key parameter is discussed on page 23, lines 1-9.) Thus, the scenario 16 (Fig. 3), specific to the computer 1-1, is produced by incorporating (14) the acquired data into the parameters of the template 11, and then the scenario 16 is input to an installation program 13.

Machida fails to disclose or suggest important aspects of the claimed invention. Among other things, Machida fails to disclose or suggest "acquiring" and "reading [a] template to determine whether [it] contains one or more parameters representing incomplete information," "incorporating acquired data into the parameters of said template," and then "inputting the produced scenario to an installation program." Therefore, claim 4, as amended, should be in condition for allowance.

Please note that claim 4 has been amended to clarify that the "scenario [is] a file describing procedures for installing the software." The clarification responds to comments that were attached to the Advisory Action, and provides an additional reason why the scenario of the claimed invention is not met by Machida's updated driver, and there are also other reasons why the claimed invention is distinguishable over Machida.

Claim 5, as amended, recites a "method for installing a plurality of items of software . . . and simultaneously performing initial print setup." The claimed method includes the steps of "producing a template of a scenario," "acquiring data corresponding to the parameters," and "inputting . . . produced scenarios to installation programs." The prior art references of record, including Machida, fail to disclose or suggest the method of claim 5, as amended.

6

The remaining claims, claims 6, 14 and 18, as amended, each recite one or more limitations similar to one or more of the limitations discussed above in connection with claims 4 and 5. Claims 6, 14 and 18, as amended, should be allowable over the references of record, and there are also other reasons why the claims should be allowable. Therefore, allowance of the application with claims 4-6, 14 and 18, as amended, is solicited.

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7